

# Article Alert

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## July 4 is Independence Day



U.S. Maps with Facts in Brief

The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams, the holiday is "the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, .... It ought to be solemn-

nized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

The holiday is a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political freedom.

"The Fourth" is a family celebration. Picnics and barbeques are common. July is summer in the United States, and millions of Americans escape the heat at beaches and other vacation spots.

If you want to know more about Fourth of July, please visit our website below:

White House: Independence Day  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

National Archives: The Declaration of Independence  
<http://www.archives.gov/>

U.S. Elections: Guide to the 2008 Election  
<http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/index.html>

Library of Congress: Patriotic Melodies (with sheet music)  
<http://www.loc.gov/>

ePublication / eJournal  
<http://www.america.gov/publications.html>

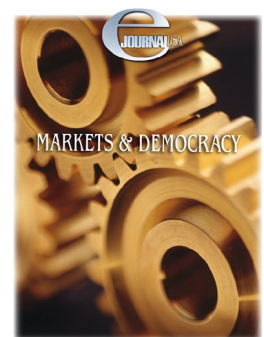
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## New *eJournal USA*: Markets and Democracy

The connection between markets and democracy has never been a straight line. Since the 1700s economic thinkers have been debating this complex relationship. Is it possible to have free markets without democracy? Which develops first? Can the incentive of economic growth lead to greater democracy in countries that are not democratic?

The 12 international experts we've assembled in this issue take up different aspects of the conundrum and offer their answers to these questions. Our goal, however, is not to resolve a centuries-old intellectual debate but to deepen our readers' understanding about the nuances of what is undeniably a matter of importance for everyone in the world today.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE - BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS

## DEMOCRACY

1. Mahbubani, Kishore THE CASE AGAINST THE WEST; AMERICA AND EUROPE IN THE ASIAN CENTURY (Foreign Affairs, vol. 87, no. 3, May/June 2008, pp. 111-125)

Mahbubani, formerly Singapore's ambassador to the U.N. and currently dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of

Singapore, describes the ascendancy of east Asian democracies as an example of how domestic good governance can succeed. Mahbubani is highly critical of Western policies in many areas such as foreign aid, nonproliferation, global warming, international trade and the Middle East, believing them to

believing them to have long become counterproductive. He suggests that the West's stranglehold on global institutions reveals a reluctance to acknowledge that "the era of its domination is ending and that the Asian century has come." He contends that the U.S. and Europe will need to adapt a more inclusive world

view which reflects the growing political and economic power of Asian countries. "The West needs to acknowledge that sharing power it has accumulated in global forums would serve its interests," writes Mahbubani.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

2. Barlow, Maude WHERE HAS ALL THE WATER GONE? (American Prospect, vol. 19, no. 6, June 2008, pp. A2-3)

The author, head of the citizen activist group Council of Canadians, writes that the world is

facing a freshwater crisis, due to pollution, climate change and population growth. The lack of access to clean water affects two fifths of the world's population, and is responsible for a growing incidence of water-borne diseases. Exacerbating

the water crisis is growing pressure to privatize public water utility systems. Barlow argues that the growing scarcity of fresh water is as serious a threat as global warming, but is underreported in the mainstream media and ignored by

most political leaders. In Barlow's view, the water crisis can be solved but national governments lack the political will. This is the introductory article in a special report, THE GLOBAL FRESHWATER CRISIS AND THE QUEST FOR SOLUTIONS.

## GLOBAL ISSUES

3. Carr, Nicholas. IS GOOGLE MAKING US STUPID? WHAT THE INTERNET IS DOING TO OUR BRAINS (The Atlantic Monthly, July/August 2008, pp. 56-63)

Dave, stop. Stop, will you? Stop, Dave. Will you stop, Dave?" So the supercomputer HAL pleads with the implacable astronaut Dave Bowman in a famous and weirdly poignant scene toward the end of Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey. Bowman, having nearly been sent to a deep-space death by the malfunctioning machine, is calmly, coldly disconnecting the memory circuits that control its artificial

4. Ezra Klein. THE FUTURE OF READING (Columbia Journalism Review, May/Jun 2008. Vol. 47, Iss. 1; pg. 35, 6 pgs)

The Kindle uses a technology known as E Ink, which deploys negatively charged black parti-

cles and positively charged white particles to create something that looks, and acts, startlingly like paper. It uses Sprint's national wireless network and lets you link into Amazon, where you can browse, preview, and purchase books, magazines, and other types of content (the Kindle also has a beta version of a Web browser, but for now, it's quite bad). [...] if the Kindle's successor or competitors are to succeed, it will be because Amazon used its status as the world's largest online bookseller to force authors to think seriously about creating content that works better than the book, that goes where the book cannot, that's interactive and cooperative and open in ways that printed text will never be.

5. Alissa Quart. LOST MEDIA, FOUND MEDIA (Columbia

Journalism Review, May/Jun 2008. Vol. 47, Iss. 1; pg. 30, 5 pgs)

It includes freelance writers competing with hordes of ever-younger competitors willing to write and publish online for free, the fade-out of established journalistic career paths, and, perhaps most crucially, a muddled sense of the meritorious, as blogs level and scramble the value and status of print publications, and of professional writers.

6. Barrett, Katherine & Green, Richard. THE MANDATE TO MEASURE (Governing.com/2008)

Information is king. No single idea emerges more clearly from year-long research done for the 2008 Government Performance Project. As always, this report focuses on four fundamental

management: Information, People, Money and Infrastructure. But this year, the elements that make up the information category — planning, goal-setting, measuring performance, disseminating data and evaluating progress — overlap with the other three fields to a greater degree than ever before. Information elements, in short, are key to how a state takes care of its infrastructure, plans for its financial future and deals with the dramatic changes affecting the state workforce.

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

7. Bai, Matt THE MCCAIN DOCTRINES (New York Times Magazine, May 18, 2008, pp. 40//70)

Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) is now the prospective nominee for his party's presidential nomination. Among the many issues in his party's platform, he has made Iraq the battle he has chosen to fight, despite criticism from members of the Republican Party that such a stand could hurt him and the party in the November elections. However, in the U.S. Senate, senators are reluctant to impugn one another's motives or integrity, whatever their disagreements on policy, including strong support or opposition to the Iraqi conflict. Many of McCain's colleagues who were also Vietnam veterans, like

like Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska) and Jim Webb (D-Virginia), suspect that the senator, a former POW in Vietnam, came away from his captivity with little of their disillusionment – he spent the worst years of the war in a Hanoi prison camp, giving him a different perspective from his fellow 'in country' colleagues who believe that some wars simply can't be won on the battlefield, no matter how many soldiers are sent there to die. Instead, McCain is staking everything on the notion that the American public can be convinced that the Iraq war is winnable and worth the continued sacrifice. Without that national retrenching, the senator admits that this war, like the one in Vietnam, is probably doomed.

8. Condoleezza Rice. RETHINKING THE NATIONAL INTEREST: AMERICAN REALISM FOR A NEW WORLD. Foreign Affairs. New York: Jul/Aug 2008. Vol. 87, Iss. 4; pg. 2, 24 pgs

After 9/11, the US was called to lead with a new perspective on threats and opportunities - recognizing that it is vital to US national security that states be willing and able to meet the full range of their responsibilities, beyond their borders and within them. This uniquely American realism has guided policy for the past eight years, and it must continue to do so in the years to come.

9. Chollet, Derek; Lindberg, Tod A MORAL CORE FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (Policy Review, no. 146, December 2007 /

January 2008, pp. 3-23)

In this essay Chollet, with the Center for a New American Security, and Lindberg, with the Hoover Institution, examine the American values of democracy, liberalism, human rights, and rule of law as they have historically been applied to U.S. foreign policy. The authors also explore what American foreign policy would look like if it were stripped of its "values" component. The article concludes with principles for U.S. foreign policy in the future, such as, promoting and defending democracy; standing against the conquest of territory by force; strengthening alliances and institutions; addressing global hardship; and enforcing the "responsibility to protect".

## PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

10. Holzer, Marc and Kim, Yoonhee . EDUCATING PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS: A UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE. National Civic Review. New York: Spring 2008. Vol. 97, Iss. 1; pg. 21

As issues of government performance measurement receive more attention, the meaningful practice of performance measurement

emphasizes active citizen participation in order to build accountable, responsive government. For the last decade, many experiments in empowering citizens via public performance measurement have demonstrated that active interaction with citizens is not only the core of a healthy democracy but an effective way

respond to their clearly expressed priorities. It is therefore important to train elected officials and public managers on the possibilities for performance improvement inherent in citizen-influenced performance measurement. Here, Holzer and Kim examine the current training and education practices in this area, discusses problems

that should be confronted, and outlines recommendations pertaining to ongoing training requirements on the topic of citizen-influenced performance measurement.

## U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

11. Galston, William HOW BIG GOVERNMENT GOT ITS GROOVE BACK (American Prospect, vol. 19, no. 6, June 2008, pp. 23-26)

The author, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, notes that the post-World War II social contract in the U.S. is under

severe stress. To maintain purchasing power, American households have resorted to record levels of borrowing, driving the savings rate into negative territory for the first time on record and raising personal consumption to an unsustainable 70 percent of GDP. This situation has been a long time

in the making, and has come about through a number of factors, such as the burden of retirement savings, health care, child care and education has been transferred from employers to individuals, and the decline of manufacturing. Galston argues that the public safety net needs to be radically

changed, and would entail an expanded role for the federal government. Writes Galston, "the alternative to a new contract is no contract – a society in which the strong will take what they can and the weak will endure what they must."

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